

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 3 – 21 are now pending in the application. By this paper, Claims 1 and 12 have been amended, and Claim 2 has been cancelled. Support for the amendments can be found in the specification as originally filed, and no new matter has been added. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 – 3, 8 – 10, 12 – 13, and 18 – 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slaughter (U.S. Pat. No. 6,014,669) in view of Ficco (U.S. Pat. App. No. 2002/0178451). Claims 4 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slaughter (U.S. Pat. No. 6,014,669) in view of Ficco (U.S. Pat. App. No. 2002/0178451), and in further view of Pullara (U.S. Pat. App. No. 2003/0014256). Claims 5 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slaughter (U.S. Pat. No. 6,014,669) in view of Ficco (U.S. Pat. App. No. 2002/0178451), in further view of Pullara (U.S. Pat. App. No. 2003/0014256), and in further view of Glenn (U.S. Pat. No. 5,852,724). Claims 6 – 7 and 15 – 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slaughter (U.S. Pat. No. 6,014,669) in view of Ficco (U.S. Pat. App. No. 2002/0178451), and in further view of Glenn (U.S. Pat. No. 5,852,724). Claims 11 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slaughter (U.S. Pat. No. 6,014,669) in view of Ficco (U.S. Pat. App. No. 2002/0178451), and in further view of Tennison (U.S. Pat. App. No. 2001/0027378). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent Claim 1 recites "...at least one area distribution box in communication with said first and second servers; and at least one seat electronics box in communication with one of said at least one area distribution box, said seat electronics box operable to provide network access to a user; wherein said first and second servers compare said first and second configuration databases after one of powering up and re-booting said first and second servers." Claim 12 recites similar limitations. As such, the invention as presently claimed calls for a mobile network which delivers network services to a user through a seat electronics box which is in communication with an area distribution box. The network resists breakdown when powering up or booting up the network servers by allowing the plurality of servers to back up one another.

It is respectfully submitted that the prior art of record fails to disclose or suggest such an arrangement. The Examiner states that Slaughter "teaches a first server [and] a second server...wherein when said first and second servers boot up, said first and second servers compare... first and second configuration databases (See col. 12, lines 50 – 55...)." However, Slaughter is directed to the setting up and tearing down of communications channels, and neither discloses nor suggests a distributed network with a fault-tolerance feature during startup or re-booting of both servers. The passage in Slaughter cited by the Examiner relates only to the startup of a single one of the servers at a time, and not the system as a whole. None of the other cited references remedy this shortcoming. Neither Ficco, Pullara, Glenn, nor Tennison disclose or suggest a distributed network which mitigates system faults during startup or re-booting. Additionally, the prior art of record neither discloses nor suggests the use of an area

distribution box and seat electronics box in a distributed network. The Examiner states that "Ficco teaches a method, system, and computer program for aircraft multimedia distribution." However, Ficco discloses only a simple Ethernet connection for communication between the devices supplied by the user, such as a laptop, and the network. Ficco simply does not contemplate an area distribution box used in conjunction with a seat electronics box. Similarly, neither Pullara, Glenn, nor Tennison disclose an area distribution box used in conjunction with a seat electronics box. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the combination of Slaughter with Ficco, Pullara, Glenn, and Tennison neither teaches nor suggests the invention as presently claimed.

Finally, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not combine the Slaughter and Ficco references without first observing the present invention. As stated above, Ficco is directed to a mobile media network using a simple Ethernet connection for the delivery of multimedia services. One of ordinary skill in the art would not look to Ficco in developing a mobile network utilizing an area distribution box and seat electronics box for delivery of network services to a plurality of user communication devices, since the Ethernet setup of Ficco is directed primarily to multimedia communications such as movies and entertainment. The combination of Slaughter and Ficco would appear to be the result of hindsight reasoning given the disparate nature of the network of Ficco and the present invention.

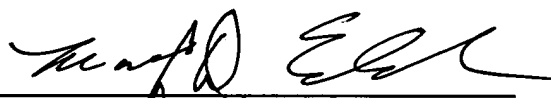
It is therefore believed that Claims 1 and 12 are now in condition for allowance. Further, Claims 3 – 11 and 13 – 21 depend from Claims 1 and 12, respectively, and are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the present rejections are therefore respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: Nov. 11, 2005

By: 
Mark D. Elchuk
Reg. No. 33,686

HARNESS, DICKEY & PIERCE, P.L.C.
P.O. Box 828
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48303
(248) 641-1600

MDE/sdo